



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**McGARR-WATERS PAPERS**  
**1848-1908**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The papers of Owen McGarr (1835-1906) – lawyer, private soldier in Captain Green's Company (Louisiana Guard Battalion) Louisiana Artillery, Consul-General of the United States to Ecuador (1885-1886), Secretary of Legation at Santiago, Chile, (1893-1895), Consul at Cienfuegos, Cuba (1895-1898) – and, the papers of Shelah Waters – Major in General W.B. Stokes' Cavalry (First Middle Tennessee Cavalry), Clerk in the Office of the Second Auditor of the Treasury (1868-1869), Assessor of Internal Revenue in Third Collection District of the State of Tennessee (1871-1875), and postmaster at Lebanon, Tennessee (1875) – were given to the Manuscript Section by Mr. Vincent Waters of Washington, D. C. through the agency of Mr. Fred Estes.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied by materials in this finding aid are 1 portfolio, 20 inches X 15 1/2 inches.

Literary rights in the McGarr-Waters Papers have been dedicated to the public. Single photocopies of unpublished writings may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The McGarr-Waters Papers, containing approximately 50 items, span the period 1848-1903. The collection is composed of correspondence, licenses to practice law in several states and several courts, certificates of appointment to several diplomatic positions, and exequaturs from the various foreign governments to which Owen McGarr was appointed. These licenses and diplomatic papers of Owen McGarr, a native of Mississippi who lived in Washington, D. C., Colorado, Ecuador, Chile and Cuba for the greater part of his life, are for the years 1861-1898. He retired to Chattanooga, Tennessee and was living there at the time of his death.

In addition to the McGarr Papers, there are about ten items of Shelah Waters, a native of Tennessee and a relative of Owen McGarr by the marriage of his sister. Shelah Waters was a Federal soldier and was appointed to a clerkship in the Internal Revenue Service in Tennessee in 1868. In 1875, Grant appointed him postmaster at Lebanon, Tennessee. These papers and correspondence relate to these appointments and are for the years 1868-1875.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

### Owen McGarr

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| ca. 1838  | Born in Vicksburg, Mississippi<br>Attended School in Mississippi   |
| 1853      | Appointed Clerk in General Land Office, Washington, D. C.  |
| 1861      | Admitted to bar in Washington, D. C.   |
| 1861-1865 | Served in Confederate Army – Captain Green’s Company (Louisiana Guard Battalion) Louisiana Artillery   |
| 1873      | Licensed as an attorney and counselor of the Supreme Court of the United States  |
| 1878      | Licensed to practice as counselor at Law, Solicitor in Chancery and Proctor in Admiralty of the District Court of the United States for the District of Colorado at Denver |
| 1880      | Licensed as Attorney and Counselor at Law in the Supreme Court of Colorado   |
| 1880      | Licensed to practice in the Circuit Court of the United States in the District of Colorado   |
| 1885-1886 | Appointed Consul General of the United States to Ecuador   |
| 1893      | Appointed Secretary of the Legation at Santiago, Chile   |
| 1895-1898 | Appointed U. S. Consul at Cienfuegos, Cuba   |
| 1898      | Ordered to leave Cuba just prior to the outbreak of Spanish-American War   |
| 1906      | Died in Chattanooga at sixty eight years of age  |

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

### Shelah Waters

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| ca. 1838  | Born. Wilson County, Tennessee  |
| 1861-1865 | Major in Stokes' Cavalry (First Middle Tennessee Cavalry)                           |
| 1868-1869 | Clerk in Office of the Second Auditor of the Treasury                               |
| 1871      | Assessor of Internal Revenue in Third Collection District of the State of Tennessee |
| 1875      | Appointed postmaster at Lebanon by U. S. Grant                                      |
| 1894      | Died February 2, living in Nashville, Tennessee at time of death                    |

## **CONTAINER LIST**

### **Portfolio**

1. Correspondence, appointments, photographs, etc. of Owen McGarr, 1848-1903
2. Correspondence, appointments, etc. of Shelah Waters, 1868-1887
3. Clippings – Owen McGarr
4. License of Owen McGarr to practice law in the District of Columbia, February 1, 1861
5. License of Owen McGarr to practice in the Supreme Court of the United States, October 21, 1873
6. License of Owen McGarr to practice in the District Court of the United States for the District of Colorado, October 19, 1878
7. License of Owen McGarr to practice in the Supreme Court of Colorado, September 20, 1880
8. License of Owen McGarr to practice in the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Colorado, October 19, 1880
9. Appointment of Owen McGarr as Secretary of the United States Legation at Santiago, Chile, May 1893
10. Exequatur of the Chilean Government, July 25, 1893
11. Appointment of Owen McGarr as United States Consul at Cienfuegos, Cuba, December 3, 1895
12. Exequatur of Owen McGarr from the Cuban Government, June 12, 1896

### **Originals and Photostats**

1. Appointment of Owen McGarr as Consul General of the United States to Ecuador, October 12, 1885
2. Appointment of Owen McGarr as Consul General of United States in Ecuador August 3, 1886
3. Exequatur of Owen McGarr from the Government of Ecuador, September 18, 1886
4. Appointment of Owen McGarr as Secretary of the Legation of the United States at Santiago, Chile, May 17, 1893
5. Appointment of Owen McGarr as Secretary of the Legation of the United States to Chile, September 2, 1893
6. Appointment of Owen McGarr as Consul of the United States at Cienfuegos, Cuba, November 13, 1896
7. Appointment of Owen McGarr as Consul of the United States at Cienfuegos, Cuba, January 9, 1896

**NAME INDEX FOR THE CORRESPONDENCE  
OF  
Owen McGarr and Shelah Waters**

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Dimitry, Alex, 1848, to Owen McGarr  
Douglass, J. W., to Shelah Waters  
Garrison, J. R., 1889, to Owen McGarr  
Richardson, William A., 1869, to Shelah Waters  
Shalater, A., 1871, to Shelah Waters  
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Swann, H. M., 1903, to Owen McGarr  
Wilson, John, 1853, to Owen McGarr